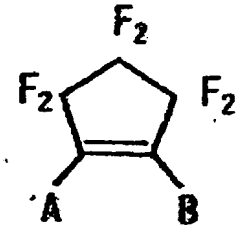
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

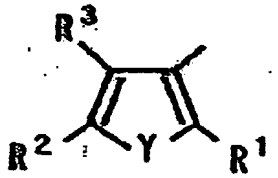
Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A photochromic material comprising a compound having a ring opening quantum yield of 10^{-3} or lower, [belonging to] which is a diheteroarylethene [class], represented by the following [general] formula [[I]] (I):

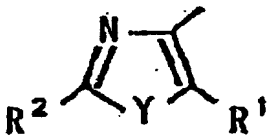


[•••[I]] (I)

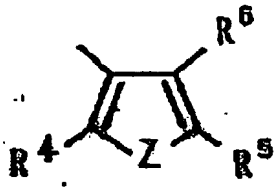
wherein, in the [general] formula [[I]] (I), A represents following substituents [[i] or [ii]] (i) or (ii), and B represents following substituents [[iii] or [iv]] (iii) or (iv);



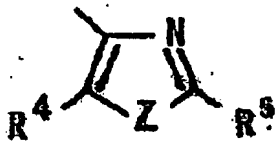
[••• [i]] (i)



[••• [ii]] (ii)



[••• [iii]] (iii)



[••• [iv]] (iv)

wherein, in the substituents [[i] and [ii]] (i) and (ii), R^1 represents an alkoxy group, R^2 represents -Q-Ar, Q [representing] represents a direct bond or [an arbitrary] a divalent group and Ar [representing] represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring or an aromatic heterocycle which are optionally substituted, R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a halogen atom, a fluoroalkyl group; a cyano group, or an aryl group which is optionally substituted, and Y represents -O- or -S-; and

in the substituents [[iii] and [iv]] (iii) and (iv), R^4 represents an alkoxy group, R^5 represents —Q-Ar, Q [representing] represents a direct bond or [an arbitrary] a divalent group and Ar [representing] represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring or an aromatic heterocycle which are optionally substituted, R^6 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a halogen atom, a fluoroalkyl group, a cyano group, or an aryl group which is optionally substituted, and Z represents -O- or —S-.

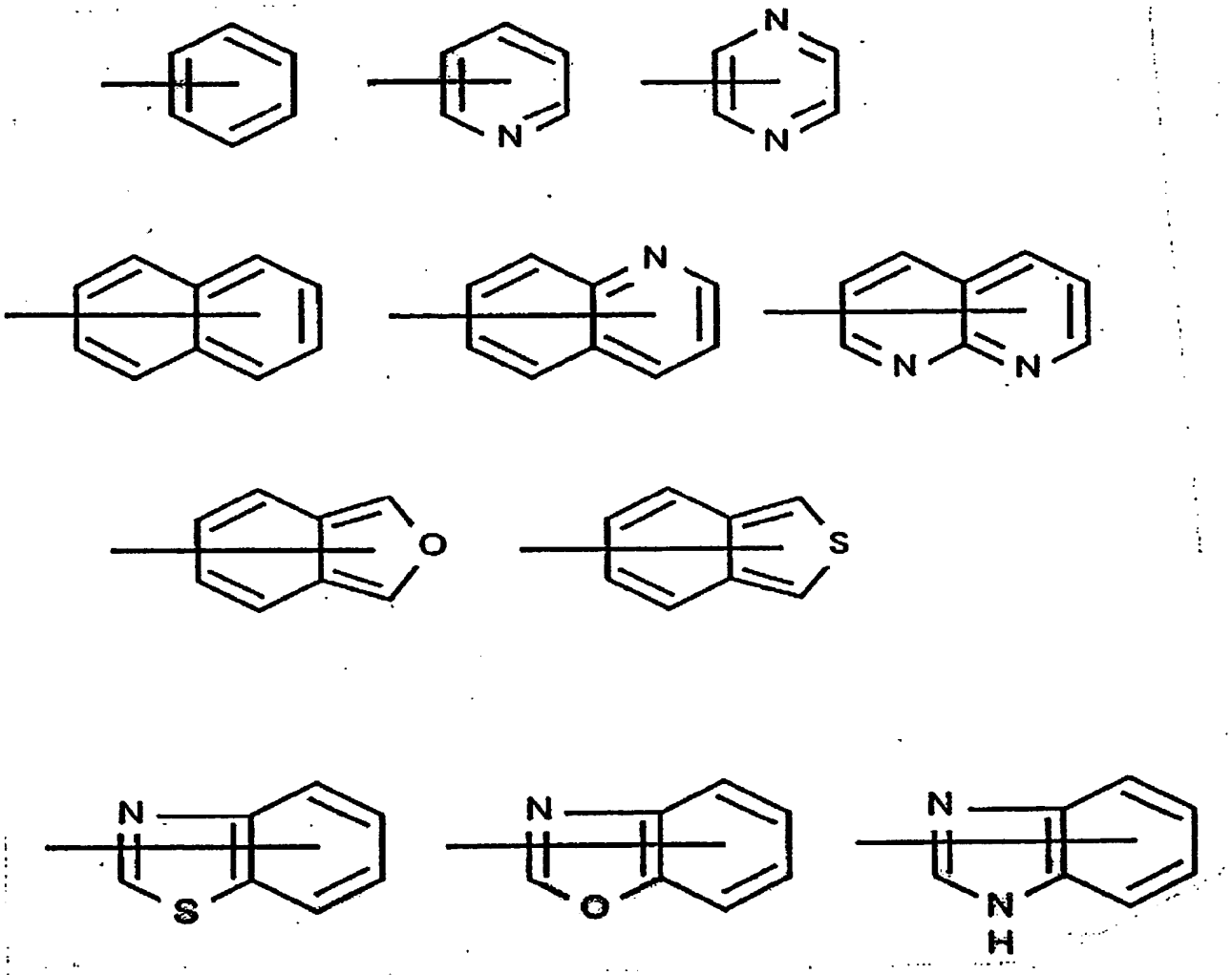
2. (Previously presented) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ring opening quantum yield is 3.3×10^{-4} or lower.

3. (Currently amended) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^4 in the substituents [[i]-[iv]] (i)-(iv) of said [general] formula [[I]] (I) each [comprise] comprises independently an alkoxy group having 1-3 carbon atoms.

4. (Currently amended) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 3, wherein R^1 and R^4 each [comprise] comprises a methoxy group.

5. (Currently amended) A photochromic material [described] as claimed in claim 1, wherein Q in Q-Ar corresponding to R^2 and R^5 in the substituents [[i]-[iv]] (i)-(iv) of said [general] formula [[I]] (I) each [comprise] comprises independently a direct bond, -(-CH=CH-)n- (wherein n = 1-5), or -(C≡C-)n-(wherein n = 1-5), whereby Ar comprises a single 5- or 6-member ring, or two or three 5- or 6-member rings directly bonded or condensed, each of said rings being optionally substituted.

6. (original) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 5, wherein Ar in Q-Ar corresponding to R^2 and R^5 is selected independently from the group consisting of the following formulae:


N
N
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O
S
N
S
N
O
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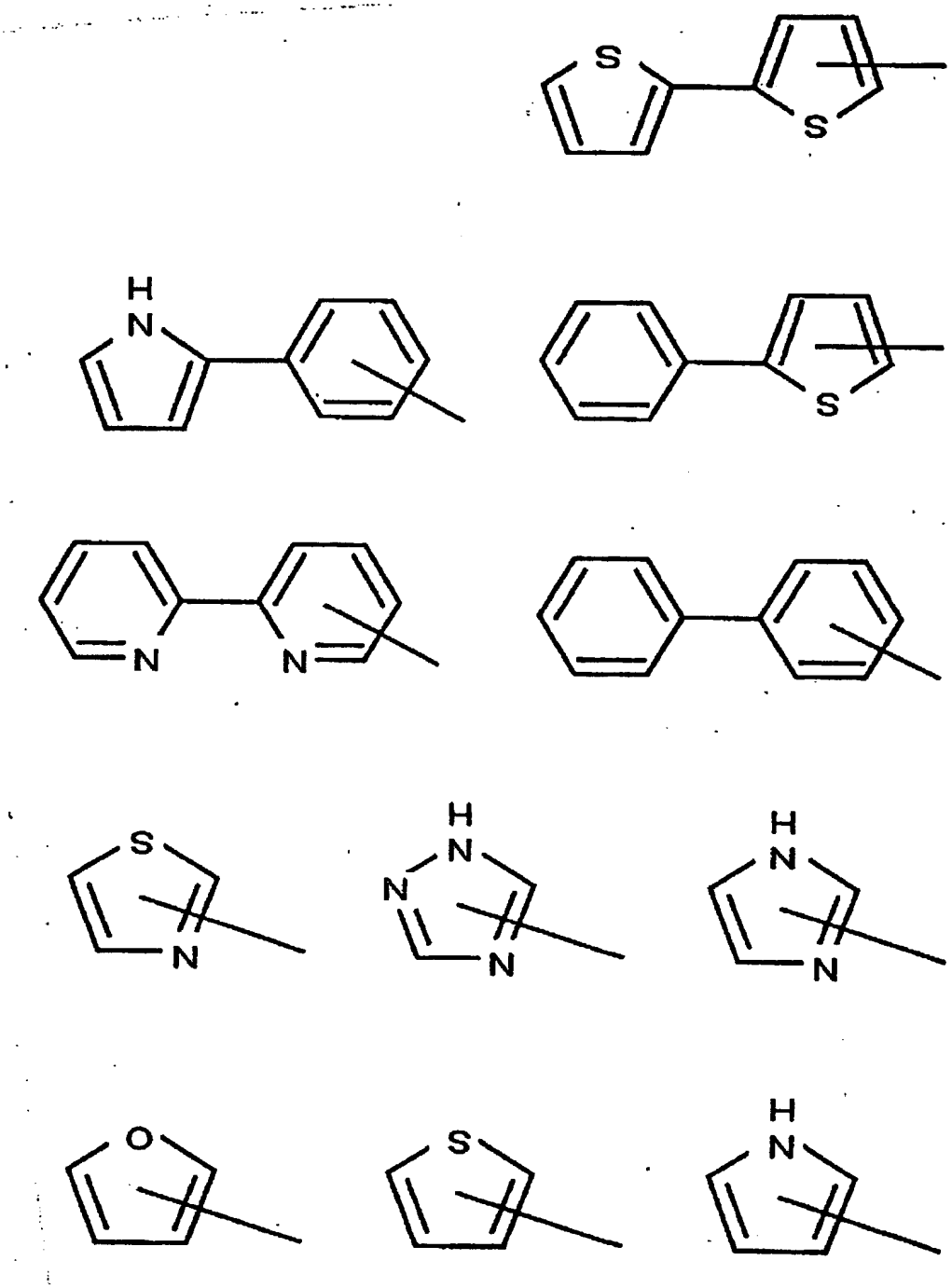
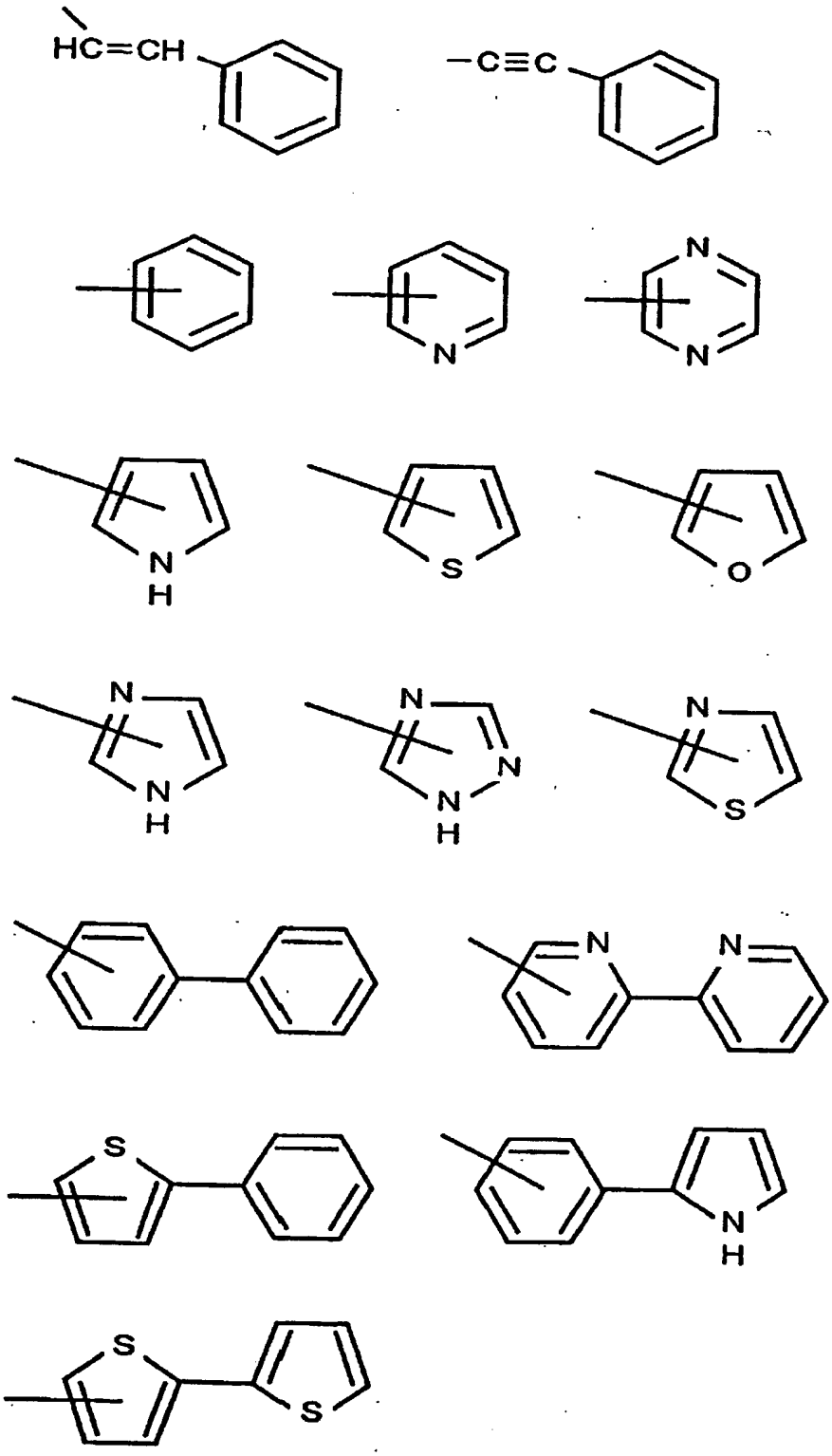
H



7. (Currently amended) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 6, wherein R^2 and R^5 are each selected independently from the group consisting of following formulae:


HC=CH
−C≡C
N
N
N
N
N
H
S
O
N
N
H
N
N
N
H
N
S
N
N
S
N
H
S
S

8. (Currently amended) A photochromic material [described] as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^3 and R^6 each [comprise] comprises independently a linear alkyl group.

9. (Currently amended) A photochromic material [described] as claimed in claim 1, wherein the photochromic material comprises a compound, [belonging to the] which is a diheteroarylethene [class], selected from the group consisting of following formulae: